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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	
)	
JOHN ZARYNOW)	Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
)	
Serial Number: 10/781,005)	Group Art Unit: 3679
)	
Filed: February 18, 2004)	RESPONSE
)	
For: FILAMENT-WOUND)	
COMPOSITE COUPLING)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

This is in response to the restriction and election requirements mailed January 11, 2005 in the above-referenced application. An information disclosure statement is being filed coincident with this response. A change of address, but NOT telephone number, is anticipated by applicant's counsel in the next few weeks and will be filed in the very near future.

On February 8, 2005, a brief telephone conference was held between Examiner Dunwoody and applicant's counsel to inquire about the status of claims 52, 54, 55, 57, 60 and 61 and Figure 8, which claims and Figure were omitted from discussion in the restriction and election requirements. In the telephone conference, Examiner Dunwoody indicated that claims 52, 54, 55, and 57 were to be included within Invention I and that claims 60 and 61 were to be included

within Invention II. Additionally, Examiner Dunwoody indicated that Figure 8 was to be included within species Group C. Applicant's counsel wishes to thank Examiner Dunwoody for promptly resolving the status questions and expresses hopes that prosecution may continue in such an efficient and expeditious manner.

Presently, claims 1-3, 6-9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 26, 28-30, 45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60 and 61 are pending and subject to restriction and election requirements.


Under the restriction requirement, claims 1-3, 6-9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 26, 28-30, 52, 54, 55, and 57 are grouped together as Group I, a composite coupling. Claims 45, 47-49, 51, 60 and 61 are grouped together as Group II, a method of making a filament-wound composite article. In order to expedite prosecution and not by way of admission, Applicant elects Group I. Applicant also respectfully traverses the requirement on the grounds that, in part, the Examiner incorrectly reasons that another materially different product might result from the method if the resulting product omits a pipe stop. Applicant notes that independent claim 1 of Group I does not recite a pipe stop and, therefore, a product of the method of claim 45 of Group II lacking a pipe stop would not necessarily be materially different than a product consistent with claim 1, assuming the resin employed in the method resulted in a thermoset plastic matrix. In fact, Applicant further notes that "pipe stop" upon which the Examiner has partially based the argument for restriction is recited in narrower dependent claims 8 and 9 and is an example of a "means to index" as recited in dependent claims 6 and 7. Thus, the justification of the restriction based upon reasoning that omitting a pipe stop in the method invention, such as claim 45 of Group II, would result in a materially different product appears to be unjustified. Further, Applicant notes

that independent claim 52, part of Group I, is a method claim for assembling a restrained joint, which claim 52 recites "filament-wound coupling" and does not specify thermoset resin plastic matrix. Moreover, independent claim 57, also part of Group I, is a system claim reciting "filament-wound composite coupling" and again failing to recite thermoset resin plastic resin matrix. Thus, the justification of the restriction based upon reasoning that omitting thermoset plastic resin in the method claim 45 of Group II would result in another and materially different product also appears to be unjustified. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In the election requirement, the Examiner indicated that three patentably distinct species are claimed. Group A drawn to Figures 1-3a, Group B drawn to Figure 3b, and Group C drawn to Figures 4-8. In order to expedite prosecution and not by way of admission, Applicant identifies Group B, drawn to Figure 3b, as a single disclosed species for prosecution if no generic claim is finally held allowable. Applicant's counsel lists the following pending claims as thought to be readable thereon: claims 1-3, 6-9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-24, 26, 28-30, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, and 61. Applicant also traverses the election requirement on the grounds that 1-3, 6-9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 26, 28, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, and 61 are respectfully submitted to be generic to both Group A and Group B. Applicant notes, however, that dependent claims 29 and 30 are limited to the snap ring embodiment depicted in Figure 3b. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is requested. If there are issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this patent application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,
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